Phereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United St MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS	
OIPE Pornis Meni	33104
Patricia L. Mesuch	Date of Signature
APR 0 2 2004 (4) IN THE UNITED STATES DATENT	AND TO A DEM A DIZ OFFICE
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT Renfro, Jr. et al.	AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Villa N. C.	
Transpir fe Application of:)
Renfro, Jr. et al.)
)
Serial No.: 10/790,537) Art Unit: N/A
)
Filed: March 1, 2004) Examiner: N/A
)
Title: FIBER OPTIC SPLICE COMPONENT)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the document(s) listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the filing date of the application, but, to the best of Applicants' knowledge, before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

Copies of the listed document(s) are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document(s) and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed document(s) are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the document(s) as prior art against any claims in the application and applicants determine that the cited document(s) do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document(s).

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Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document(s), should one or more of the document(s) be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-2167. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher C. Dremann Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 36,504

P.O. Box 489

Hickory, N. C. 28603 Telephone: 828/901-5904

Date:_3/3//04

FORM PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office LIST OF RELATED DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)				Attorney Docket Number: HE0221		Serial Number: 10/790,537			
(Use several aliancers it mechanism)					Applicant: James G. Renfro, Jr. et al.				
APR 0 2 2004				Filing Date: 3/1/04			Group: TBD		
		Document	U. S	S. PATENT DO	CUMENTS				
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	N	ame	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate	
	AA	5,249,246	9/28/93	Szanto		385	96	6/29/92	
	AB	5,222,171	6/22/93	Straus		385	96	10/21/91	
	AC	4,598,974	7/8/86	Munn et al.		350	96.21	8/15/85	
	AD	4,102,582	7/25/78	Lord et al.		356	241	11/9/76	
	AE								
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	AJ								
	,		FORE	IGN PATENT	DOCUMENTS	3		~	
		Document Number	Date	Co	untry	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No	
	AK	DE4102582C1	6/4/92	Germany		G02B	6/255	No	
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		OTHER DOC	UMENTS (I	ncluding Autho	r, Title, Date, l	Pertinent Pages	s, Etc.)		
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	AP								
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EXAMINER	}						DATE (CONSIDERED	